

A SMALL COLLECTION OF CHIGGERS FROM SURINAM
(ACARINA: TROMBICULIDAE)

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ABSTRACT: Nine species of chiggers, one of them new, are recorded for the first time from Surinam. *Arisocerus*, new genus is described for *A. amapensis*, n. sp., off rodents from northeastern Brazil and Surinam (holotype off *Oryzomys macconnelli*, Amapá, Brazil), and *A. hertigi* (Brennan and Jones, 1964), new combination.

INTRODUCTION

All species of Surinam chiggers recorded below were received from Dr. Rupert L. Wenzel, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago and were collected during the Museum's Guianan Zoological Expedition, 1960-62. Dr. Thomas H. G. Aitken, Rockefeller Foundation, Belém, Pará, Brazil contributed the majority of specimens of *Arisocerus amapensis*, new genus, new species.

Arisocerus, new genus

Type species: Arisocerus amapensis, n. sp.

Trombiculine larvae ectoparasitic on mammals. Leg segmentation 7-7-7; 3 genualae I, a genuala II and III, tibiala III, sub- and parasubterminala, microtarsala I distad of tarsala I; coxae unisetose. Scutum twice as wide as long with strongly sinuous anterior and posterior margins; 5 setae; sensillae expanded and asymmetrical. Eyes 2/2, in a plate. Cheliceral blade with tricuspoid cap. Galeal seta nude. Palpal tibial claw trifurcate; palpal tarsus with 6 branched setae, a subterminala, and a tarsala.

Referred species: Euschoengastia hertigi Brennan and Jones, 1964.

Arisocerus is the only neotropical genus having expanded, lopsided sensillae and palpal tarsus with 6 branched setae and a subterminala. Both included species have less than 30 dorsal setae.

Aristocerus amapensis, new species

Figure 1

Type data: Holotype and 9 paratypes, RML 49368, off *Oryzomys macconnelli*, Serra do Navio, ICOMI, Amapá, Brazil, 15 March 1968, T. H. G. Aitken; 12 paratypes, same data but 1 February 1968.

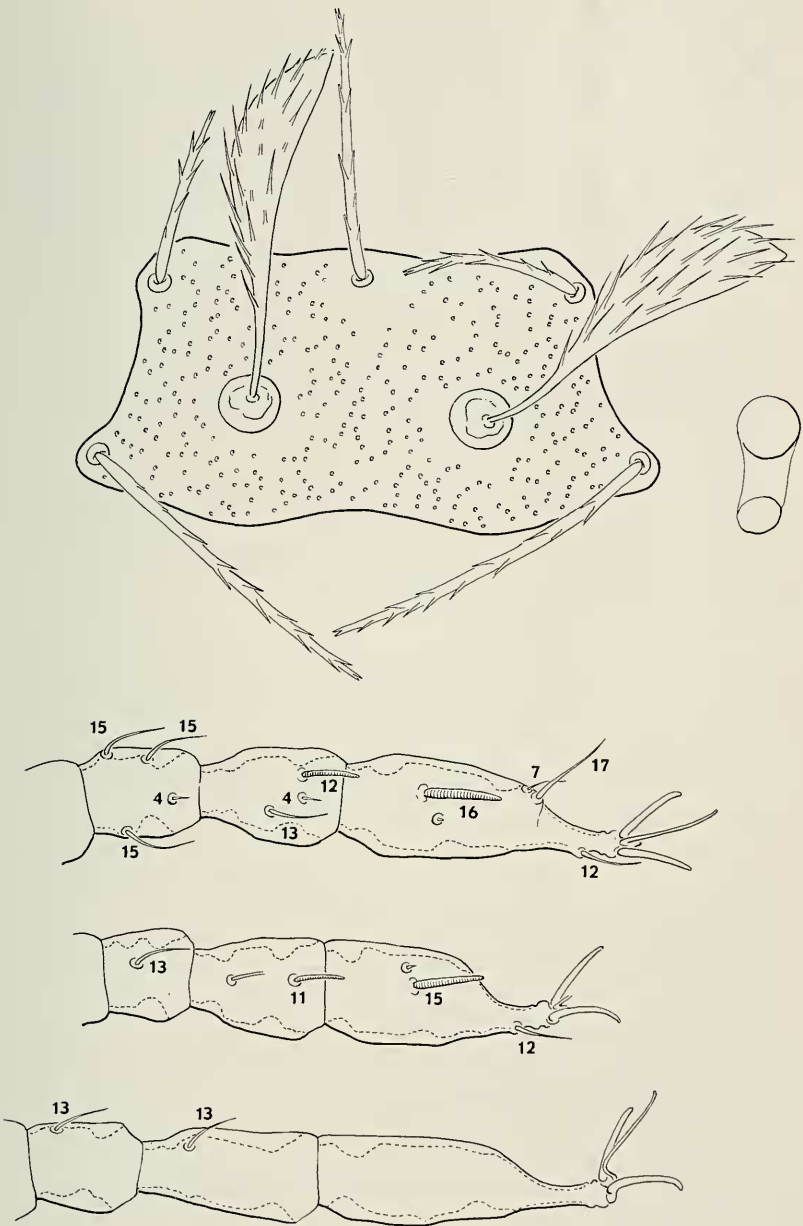


Figure 1. *Arisocerus amapensis*, gen. n., sp. n. Scutum, eyes and specialized setae of legs with measurements in microns.

Holotype and some paratypes in the Rocky Mountain Laboratory; other paratypes to be deposited in the United States National Museum, Field Museum of Natural History and British Museum (Natural History).

Other material: Surinam: 3 larvae off *Oryzomys laticeps* and 1 off *Myoprocta acouchy*, Paloemeu Airstrip, Tapanahoni River, 30 May 1961, H. A. Beatty.

Brazil: 38 off 5 *Oryzomys capito*, Serra do Navio, ICOMI, Amapá, 9 February to 11 March 1968; 10 off 2 *O. capito*, APEG Forest (IPEAN), Belém, Pará, 22 October 1968 and 29 April 1969; 5 off *O. capito*, Catu Forest (IPEAN); 2 off *O. capito*, Jandiai, Caratateua, Bragança, Pará, 1 April 1968; 4 off 2 *Proechimys guyannensis*, APEG Forest, 11 September and 29 October 1968; T. H. G. Aitken.

Diagnosis: Distinguished from *A. hertigi* by more slender sensillae, lacking a mastitarsala III, and $AM > AL$.

Body: Pinkish white to yellowish white in life, broad ellipsoidal with slight constriction when engorged. Eyes small, 2/2, in a plate. Anus at next to last row of ventral setae. Length and width of holotype, nearly engorged, 421 by 287 microns.

Gnathosoma: Moderately punctate. Blades with small tricuspid cap. Galeal seta nude. Palpal setae B/B/NNN, tarsus with 6 branched setae, a subterminala and a tarsala, tibial claw apparently trifurcate.

Scutum: As figured, moderately punctate, with sinuous margins; sensillae asymmetrically lanceolate with longish setules (7μ); $PL > AM > AL$, anteromedian and anterolateral setae set back of margin. Scutal measurements of holotype: AW 48, PW 60, SB 27, ASB 17, PSB 12, AP 20, AM 33, AL 21, PL 41, S 41 x 9.

Legs: As figured, moderately punctate. Specialized setae as figured. Non-specialized setae sparsely to moderately branched. Coxal III seta on anteromedian margin.

Body setae: Dorsal setae: humerals 38μ , dorsals 33 to 37μ , arranged in holotype 2-6-6-6-2-2. Ventral setae 2-2 plus 16.

Odontacarus tubercularis (Brennan)

Acomatacarus tubercularis Brennan, 1952.

Four specimens off *Dasyprocta* sp., Surinam, 1961 (no other data available).

Boshkerria punctata (Boshell and Kerr)

Trombicula punctata Boshell and Kerr, 1942.

One specimen off *Dasyprocta* sp., Kaiserberg Airstrip, east bank of Zuid River, 900 feet, October 1960, H. A. Beatty.

Calicus icomi (Brennan)

Calicus icomi Brennan, 1970.

Twelve larvae off *Oryzomys laticeps*, Paloemeu, Tapanahoni River, 30 May 1961, H. A. Beatty; 9 off *Agouti* sp., same location and collector, June 1961; 2 off *Didelphis marsupialis*, Nickerie, Wilhelmina Mt., October 1961; 4 off *Proechimys* sp., Suriname River, Carolina Kreek, 26 November 1961, P. Hershkovitz.

Euschoengastia oblonga (Fauran)

Euschöngastia oblonga Fauran, 1959.

Six larvae off *Agouti paca*, Kaiserberg Airstrip, Zuid River, 900 feet, 21 October 1960, H. A. Beatty. First record of this species since it was described off same host species, French Guiana.

Crotiscus desdentatus tissoti Fauran

Crotiscus desdentatus tissoti Fauran, 1960.

One larva off *Myoprocta acouchy*, Paloemeu Airstrip, Tapanahoni River, May 1961, H. A. Beatty.

Eutrombicula alfreddugesi (Oudemans)

Microthrombidium alfreddugesi Oudemans, 1910.

Many larvae, mostly of the *tropica* form, off *Agouti paca*, *Dasyprocta* sp., *Proechimys* sp. and *Sciurus* sp.; Kaiserberg Airstrip, east bank of Zuid River, 900 feet; October and November 1960; H. A. Beatty.

Eutrombicula goeldii (Oudemans)

Microthrombidium göldii Oudemans, 1910.

Numerous larvae, off *Agouti paca*, *Myoprocta* sp. and *Sciurus* sp.; Kaiserberg Airstrip, east bank of Zuid River, 900 feet; October and November 1960; *Myoprocta acouchy*, *Dasyprocta* sp. and *Mazama gouazoubira*; Paloemeu Airstrip, Tapanahoni River; April to June 1961; H. A. Beatty.

Tecomatlana (Hooperella) saccopteryx (Brennan and Jones) *Trombicula saccopteryx* Brennan and Jones, 1960.

Many larvae off 2 *Saccopteryx bilineata*, Kaiserberg Airstrip, east bank of Zuid River, 900 feet, November 1960, H. A. Beatty; 35 larvae off *S. bilineata*, Brokopondo, Loksie Hattie, Saramacca River, 21 December 1961, P. Hershkovitz.

Trombicula palmigera Fauran

Trombicula palmigera Fauran, 1960.

Two larvae off opossum, *Didelphis marsupialia*, Nickerie, Wilhelmina Mt., October 1961. First record since described off *Dasyprocta aguti*, French Guiana.

The unique broom-like sensillae distinguish *T. palmigera* from other chiggers of the Western Hemisphere. The species is obviously misplaced generically, but I have retained it in *Trombicula* s.l. because insufficient material (the 2 specimens above and a paratype) precludes accurate interpretation of such fundamental structures as palpal tibial claw and palpal tarsal setation.

Pseudoschoengastia tricoso (Brennan and Jones)

Vanidicus tricosus Brennan and Jones, 1961.

One larva off *Oryzomys laticeps*, Paloemeu Airstrip, Tapanahoni River, 30 May 1961, H. A. Beatty.

I follow Geest and Loomis, 1968 who state, "The absence of differentiation in characters and the close similarity to *P. abditiva* Brennan has prompted us to synonymize *Vanidicus* with the genus *Pseudoschoengastia*."

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